

Fourth Annual Report

OF THE

Jamaica Plain Employment and Temporary Relief Society.

So quietly, and methodically, and economically, has the Employment Society carried on its work for the past year, following out the methods heretofore described, and introducing some further economies, that the subscribers to this charity may almost be satisfied with a careful reading of the statistics as presented below, without desiring any words in explanation of the good use made of their money.

It must be well to state, however, wherein we have gained a happy issue out of one of our greatest perplexities. In order to give employment to as many women as needed it, we have heretofore been obliged to see a great accumulation of garments, more than we could sell, more than we felt justified in giving away. Towards the spring of last year, we succeeded in making an arrangement with the City Hospital, by which we received, and continue to receive, its regular orders for work; the Hospital providing the material, and our funds paying for making it up into clothing. The Farm School sent us cotton to cut and make into shirts for its inmates, and we have also executed commissions, upon the same terms, for the New England Hospital and for the Infant Asylum. All will see at once the great economy of this plan. In spite of the relief thus afforded, we still have on hand more garments than we can dispose of by sale or by gift. In many cases, our judicious agent has persuaded the sewers to take their pay in clothes for their children, so that they might see them warmly clad when another winter, with its many pressing needs, should overtake them. Thus have some learned thrift and foresight, who never before had a thought beyond the present.

This has been the chief advance in good management of the past year, but we have also been able to carry out our idea given in the last Report, of constantly employing, as cutter, one deserving woman, who has relieved the ladies greatly from such constant attendance, and who has earned

as much by this means as she would have done by sewing. More of the best seamstresses will gradually be prepared for this kind of service, but time and patience are required to fit them for this more skilful branch of work.

The other problem mentioned last year, what we could do for those unequal to anything as delicate as needle-work, still presses on our minds, but here, as before, the St. Vincent Society, with its benevolent spirit, comes forward and takes charge of many for whom we cannot do much.

During the spring, the Executive Committee decided, as the work of some of the visitors had become very arduous, a single case often requiring much time and care, that it was advisable to divide our territory into more districts, and accordingly the number was increased from eight to fourteen, new helpers readily coming forward to join the work. The result is that the visitors can look into every case more thoroughly and satisfactorily to themselves, and can give more time to those who are in real need of their help and sympathy. The work of our visitors is also somewhat increased by their agreement to assist the physician of the Jamaica Plain Dispensary, when such help may be needed by him in his work among the poor.

By the strictest economy, our funds were made to last until the end of our working year, when the kind aid of a band of little girls supplied us with \$130, the proceeds of a fair started and carried through wholly by themselves. This gift has enabled us to continue the City Hospital work through the summer, giving it to the most needy and deserving of our women.

The coming year promises to be even harder for workingmen than that gone by. Will not our friends in this community give us generous contributions of money, that we may make life a little less hard to many poor families, by giving the women the work which they ask for and do so well? Early in the year, a supply of coke was placed at our disposal by the Gas Co.—a most valuable gift. Bundles of partly worn clothing have been received from several kind friends, and have been put into immediate use. A gift of \$5 for boots and shoes is also gratefully acknowledged.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Statement of the receipts and expenditures of the Jamaica Plain Employment and Temporary Relief Society from October 1, 1877, to October 7, 1878.

RECEIPTS.

Balance from last year.....	\$250.81
Subscriptions and donations.....	1116.35
Sales of garments.....	519.95
Proceeds of little girls' fair.....	133.65
	\$2020.76

EXPENDITURES.

Work through Employm't Com....	\$740.00
Materials for work.....	602.42
Agent's salary.....	384.00
Provisions.....	71.90
Boots and shoes.....	45.60
Coal	20.80
Printing and stationery.....	24.87
Sundries (cleaning, carting, express)	6.05
	\$1895.64
Balance on hand,	125.12
	\$2020.76

MRS. FRANCIS H. STORER,
Oct. 7, 1878. Treasurer.

I hereby certify that I have examined the accounts from Oct. 1st, 1877, to Oct. 7th, 1878, of Mrs. F. H. Storer, Treasurer of the Jamaica Plain Employment and Temporary Relief Society, and that the same are correctly kept, and the payments thereof properly vouched, and that the Treasurer charges herself, as of Oct. 7th, 1878, with a balance of one hundred and twenty-five dollars and twelve cents (\$125.12.)

CHARLES P. BOWDITCH,
Boston, Oct. 8th, 1878. Auditor.

NOTICE.

The annual meeting of the Jamaica Plain Employment and Temporary Relief Society, will be held at Curtis Hall, on Monday Oct. 28th, at 3 o'clock, P. M. All interested in this charity are earnestly invited to be present.

Fifty-two women have received sewing at the room during the past year. In April and May, many of these were able to give up their work, and most of those who continued to take it, were paid in clothing instead of money. The good spirit shown by the women in this matter was very noticeable, several of them reporting to Mrs. Bradley the first out-of-door work obtained by their husbands, and voluntarily giving up the sewing which they thought they could do without better than others.

523 articles of clothing have been given to our poor families by orders of the district visitors and the truant officer. 192 articles were given by the Employment Committee to the Sea-shore Home, and a small number to the New England Hospital. During the winter and spring, 43 articles were made for the City Hospital; 100 for the Farm School; 485 for the Infant Asylum. From June 1st to Oct. 1st, nine women have received sewing, and we have sent 131 articles to the City Hospital; 422 articles to the N. E. Hospital; 107 articles to the Infant Asylum. In all these cases, the material has been provided by the institutions and the work paid for out of the funds of the society.

Our agent, Mrs. Bradley, will be at Curtis Hall, between the hours of ten and one o'clock, every day in the week, except Saturdays and Sundays.

For the Executive Committee,
ELLEN C. MORSE,
ANNE L. FROTHINGHAM.

